

Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Present: Philip Ailiff, Neal Baxter, Scott Engel, Diane Hansen, Donna Hemp, Dan Herber, Peter Janelle, Jason Lord, Kathleen Mayell, Don Ostrom, Stefanie Toftey; Mackenzie Turner, Sarah Stewart, Joe Bernard, Rose Ryan, Mike Mechtenberg, Gina Mitteco, Leslie Foreman, Shaun Murphy

Chairman Don Ostrom called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM. He invited all present to introduce themselves, and to have cake and coffee to mark Diane Hansen's last PAC meeting.

Approval of May Minutes

Scott moved to accept, with amendment proposed by Kathleen; approved.

Announcements

Shaun: the Park Board has created a new Citizen advisory committee, to look at changes to West River Parkway from Plymouth Avenue to the Ford Bridge. The first of 3 meetings will convene on September 3. Neal volunteered to attend, unless another PAC member expressed an interest.

Mike: bike/pedestrian conflicts are a continuing concern, esp. on the Cedar Lake trail and near Target Field & Center. How, Mike asked, do citizens report these encounters? Shaun recommended contacting his office, or calling 311.

Mackenzie: new durable crosswalks are being tested, at Lyndale & Franklin, Chicago & 38th and 35th & Portland. They are marked by brighter paint, and set motor vehicles further away from pedestrians.

Shaun: the City will hire 3 new Associate Transportation Planners. They will replace the Bike-Walk Ambassadors, and their salaries will come out of the City's general fund, not grants.

Diane: the program which has paid for clearing the debris from the recent violent wind storm is a great success! The cost to the Park Board will come to between \$680,000 and \$880,000. FEMA will, we hope, reimburse the Park system for this.

Joe: give his office your thoughts about bike & pedestrian interaction on and near bicycle tracks, esp. Bridge #9 and the University's new bike path leading to it. See streets.mn

Rose: note the meetings for neighbors affected by the Minnehaha Ave. road work, on July 11 & 17

Kathleen: I'd like to follow progress on matters we've discussed, the 36th St. bike/ped path, for example.

Shaun: the executive committee can add those items to the agenda.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee—Scott Engel

We discussed Hennepin County's proposal to repair the Franklin Avenue bridge over the River. Two firms have until March 2014 to design solutions to upgrading this vital and historic artery.

Scott presented his committee's resolution:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed design options for the Franklin Avenue Bridge Reconstruction project. The Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) recommends making changes to the design to create a better balance for all users consistent with Hennepin County's Complete Streets policy. More attention should be paid to creating safe streets for pedestrians and bicyclists because of the significant numbers of recreational users on both sides of the bridge.

Following are our specific comments:

- * Build traffic lanes at 10 ft 8 inches to calm traffic and narrow crossing distances.
- * Design sidewalks at 12 ft and clear of obstacles.
- * Separate pedestrian space from bike lanes and auto traffic using a grade change and/or tactile indicators.
- * Coordinate the design with MPRB who is planning to reconstruct W. River Parkway in the near future, including adding a pedestrian crossing with a refuge median on the west side of the bridge.

- * Install pedestrian-level lighting and decorative metal fencing.
- * Consider other lane configurations than the four-lane concept at E. River Parkway to narrow the crossing distance and slow auto traffic.

The PAC looks forward to the opportunity to review further development of the project design.

Approved as amended above.

Shaun: The committee also considered the 7th Street Pedestrian Enhancement project. In 2009, Mpls won a \$150,000 federal grant for improvements in the pedestrian corridor between the new Twins ballpark and Plymouth Avenue. A community walk generated ideas; proposed improvements include: --zebra crosswalks at Olson Highway & 7th St. and a longer signal for pedestrians across Olson. As the light rail is planned to cross this precinct, no major work is proposed meantime.

Don: postponing major changes till LRT is built will stall needed short-term improvement; inadequate! --ADA ramps at the Oak Lake intersection and

--a new sidewalk along a pinch point between 7th St. & 8th Ave. were deemed a priority.

--Lyndale on both sides of I-94 will get zebra crosswalks and countdown timers.

--a raised median which currently blocks pedestrians crossing at Bryant/Aldrich & 7th Street will be rebuilt to be ADA accessible, along zebra crosswalks and pedestrian warning signs.

These 5 projects will be completed in Oct. 2013, and use all of the federal grant.

Dan: I'd suggest bringing people into the discussion who can add valuable insight, the blind, et al.

Mike: Hennepin Co. proposes to build a service building at 7th & Plymouth, which will add foot traffic.

Programs & Policies Subcommittee—Dan Herber

Volunteers are urgently needed to develop the 8 Great Walks idea. Diane may help us with this.

Next meeting Joe Bernard will explain Pedestrian Overlay Districts.

Pedestrian Detours—Michael Zenker

Mr. Zenker is an intern in Shaun's office this summer, working on pedestrian crosswalks.

Problems he has noted and reported to contractors include missing "sidewalk closed" signs. To meet this and other problems Michael is working on a checklist of potential difficulties to include in the work contract. He liked Donna's idea for aural description of paths around work sites, via telephone.

Meeting with the Mayor—Scott Engel

Scott & Kathleen Mayall met for 15 minutes with Mayor Rybak. His Honor is excited about the PAC's street corner clearance work, and using the Pedestrian Priority map to systematize clearance. He will add funding for this in his next budget.

Joe: putting a face to the problem would move this agenda forward.

PAC Vacancies—Shaun Murphy

Losing Diane opens a seat for a new member. Shaun is looking for a North Sider to fill the vacancy.

Deadline for applications is July 31.

Elections for Leadership Positions

Chair: Scott moved Don Ostrom, Peter seconded. Approved.

Vice-Chair: Scott moved Julia Tabbut. Approved.

Secretary: Neal agreed to continue to serve. Approved.

Chair of Infrastructure committee: Scott agreed to serve. Approved. Vice-chair vote in August.

Chair of Programs committee: Dan agreed to serve. Approved. Vice-chair vote in August.

Neal moved to adjourn. Approved, and adjourned at 5:53 PM.